**Educational Research Centre (ERC)**

**Vacancy for Research Fellow Post (Methodologies) (Permanent)**

**Background**

The Educational Research Centre (ERC) was established as a Statutory Body in accordance with the Education Act (1998) in September 2015, but has been in existence since January 1966, and is located on Dublin City University’s (DCU) St Patrick’s College Campus in Drumcondra. Research is carried out at the request of the Department of Education and Skills or other agencies (e.g., NCCA or NCSE) and on the initiative of ERC staff. The ERC also provides an assessment service to the education system by, for example, developing and distributing standardised tests for use by schools. Further information is available on the ERC’s website at [www.erc.ie](http://www.erc.ie).

**Job specification**

Applications are invited for a senior research position with expertise in educational research methodologies.

This is a **new** position and involves working with the Chief Executive Officer, other Research Fellows and research staff, and the Centre’s Senior Administrator as part of the senior research and management team.

Core responsibilities are likely to include:

* leadership and oversight of the technical and methodological aspects of the Centre’s work (e.g. sampling, weighting, test and questionnaire scaling, analysis and reporting)
* development of the Centre’s strategic vision for enhancing methodologies/analysis
* supervision and mentoring of other staff members to build capacity in technical and analytic skills.

*The appointment is made on a permanent basis subject to successful completion of a 6-month probation period.*

*A panel may be formed from which future similar vacancies may be filled. The panel will remain in place for for 12 months from the closing date for applications and may be extended for a further 6 months.*

This is a technical post for which specific skills and experience are **required**. The successful candidate must have **all** of the following:

* proven experience in **each** of
	+ sample design and weighting of large-scale stratified clustered samples
	+ development, scoring and scaling of cognitive assessments using both classical test and item response theory (IRT)
	+ analysis of large-scale/complex datasets
	+ mentoring, teaching and/or supporting others in quantitative data analysis
* a doctorate in educational measurement or related discipline (e.g. psychology, statistics, assessment)
* proven capacity to generate research
* proven competence in team leadership
* the ability to articulate strategic priorities for the methodological aspects of the ERC’s programme of work
* an in-depth grasp of the inter-relationships between educational research and policy
* experience in documenting technical aspects of research (e.g. sampling, weighting, test development and scaling, procedural manuals)
* a high level of proficiency in writing customised code or macros in one or more statistical software programmes (e.g. SPSS, SAS, R)
* experience in technical or methodological aspects of programme evaluation.

It would be an **advantage** for candidates to possess one or more of the following:

* experience in both computer-based and paper-based assessment design and data
* experience working with a variety of educational outcomes (i.e. not solely achievement or attainment data)
* experience working with qualitative data and software applications (e.g. NVivo).

**Essential personal qualities** for this role include commitment, the ability to manage challenging demands and competing priorities, collaborative working style, and an open-minded and flexible approach to problem solving.

It is expected that the successful candidate will be willing to travel (chiefly within Ireland) to attend occasional project meetings.

**Salary Scale: €66,523 – €98,109**

Appointments will be made on the Research Fellow Scale to the Public Sector at a point in line with current Government Pay Policy, with new entrants commencing at the first point of the scale.

Applications must include:

* cover letter that describes how the applicant’s skills and experience meet the requirements for the post
* curriculum vitae
* names and contact details of two referees.

**Closing date: 5.00 pm, tuesday 29 january, 2019.**

It is anticipated that interviews will be held within two weeks of the closing date.

Shortlisting will apply.

to: vacancies@erc.ie

or by post: Vacancies, Educational Research Centre, DCU (St Patrick’s Campus), Drumcondra, D09 AN2F.

*(Emailed applications should generate an automated response – if you do not receive a response shortly after you submit your application contact Patricia Gaffney at 01 837 37 89.)*

**The ERC provides a flexible, dynamic and challenging working environment and is an equal opportunities employer.**